

Here at home, the final NDAA conference report removed provisions to address PFAS water contamination. More than 16 million Americans currently drink water contaminated with PFAS chemicals, which can affect every major organ in the human body and put humans at higher risk of a wide variety of health conditions and complications including liver and kidney damage and thyroid disease. The decision to reject remedies to this urgent public health issue in the NDAA is deeply disturbing and completely unacceptable.

Finally, this NDAA does not include adequate safeguards to ensure accountability for wasteful defense spending. At a time when America far outspends every other nation in the world militarily, while working families are grappling with stagnant wages and rising costs of living, it could not be more important that the Pentagon and its contractors are accountable to American taxpayers. We should be doing far more to scrutinize defense spending and to evaluate whether we could maintain a strong military while redirecting badly needed funding to the American people's priorities on health care, housing, education, and infrastructure.

Mr. President, I wish to state once again that I would have voted nay had I been present. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to resolve these critical issues in future bills and to advance the health, safety, and well-being of all Americans.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 395 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 452, Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. On vote No. 395, had I been present, I would have voted nay on confirmation.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 396 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 530, John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation. On vote No. 396, had I been present, I would have voted nay on confirmation.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 397 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 543, Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. On vote No. 397, had I been present, I would have voted nay on confirmation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my colleague and friend, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, for a lifetime of service to our Nation that started with his time as a loadmaster in the Georgia Air National Guard, to his tenure in the Georgia General Assembly, to his years of pub-

lic service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

With JOHNNY's retirement, the Senate is losing a truly great leader; a man of courage, whose dedication to this country has inspired me more times than I can count; a man of honor, who has worked tirelessly for the veteran community; and a man of compassion, who I am so grateful to be able to call a dear friend.

We will never be able to fully thank JOHNNY for all he has done for the rest of us, but today, I want to try. JOHNNY, thank you for being there for me at Walter Reed when I was a Wounded Warrior, just home from combat. Thank you for being by my side last spring, a decade and a half later, on my first trip back to Iraq.

Thank you for always being there when it matters the most, for being such an incredible advocate for our veterans, for giving the absolute best birthday and holiday presents, and for showing what it means to lead a life guided by integrity, a life defined by service.

You have made our Nation stronger and our Union more perfect. You will be missed every time this Chamber is gavelled into session.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Mr. BURR. Madam President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020. This bill is named after two dedicated staffers—Matthew Young Pollard of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Damon Paul Nelson of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—whose contributions to America will have an enduring, positive impact on our national security.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee. The explanation comprises three parts: an overview of the application of the annex to accompany this statement, unclassified congressional direction, and a section-by-section analysis of the legislative text.

I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Explanatory Statement for the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 be printed into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DAMON PAUL NELSON AND MATTHEW YOUNG POLLARD INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018, 2019, AND 2020

The following is the explanation of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fis-

cal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (hereinafter, "the Act").

This explanation reflects the result of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) (hereinafter, "the Agreement"). The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The explanation comprises three parts: an overview of the application of the annex to accompany this statement; unclassified congressional direction; and a section-by-section analysis of the legislative text.

PART I: APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the HPSCI and SSCI (collectively, the "congressional intelligence committees") from publicly disclosing many details concerning the conclusions and recommendations of the Agreement. Therefore, a classified Schedule of Authorizations and a classified annex have been prepared to describe in detail the scope and intent of the congressional intelligence committees' actions. The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community (IC) to obligate and expend funds not altered or modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations as requested in the President's budget, subject to modification under applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified annex is the result of negotiations between the congressional intelligence committees. They reconcile the differences between the congressional intelligence committees' respective versions of the bill for the National Intelligence Program (NIP) for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Agreement also makes recommendations for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) and the Information Systems Security Program (ISSP), consistent with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, and provides certain direction for these two programs. The Agreement applies to IC activities for Fiscal Year 2020.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the bill pursuant to Section 5102 of Subdivision 1. It has the status of law. The classified annex supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the bill and the classified Schedule of Authorizations. The congressional intelligence committees view direction and recommendations, whether contained in this explanation or in the classified annex, as requiring compliance by the Executive Branch.

PART II: SELECT UNCLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

Unclassified Direction related to Subdivision 1 of the Act relates to Fiscal Year 2020. Unclassified Direction related to Subdivision 2 originated in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. The term "Committees" refers to both SSCI and HPSCI.

UNCLASSIFIED DIRECTION RELATED TO SUBDIVISION 1

Plans for Operations During Government Shutdowns by All Elements of the Intelligence Community.

The Committees have an active interest in the impact of government shutdowns on the intelligence mission. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11, Section 124, outlines how agencies are supposed to plan for operations during government shutdowns, and Section 124.2 provides that agencies must share those plans with OMB. Additionally, Section 323 of the *Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014* requires the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the Central Intelligence